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Attorney Docket No. 04132/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Shigeaki YAMANAKA et al

Serial No. : 10/803,231

Filed : March 17, 2004

For : HOLLOW STEPPED SHAFT AND
METHOD OF FORMING THE SAME

Art Unit : 3725

Examiner :

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
WITH STATEMENTS UNDER 37 CFR 1.97) (e)
AND 37 CFR 1.704 (d)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

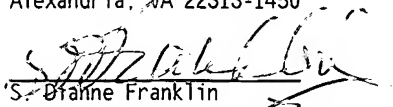
S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of Search Report Action issued in the counterpart European application;
- (2) Copies of the cited publications; and
- (3) Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B. It is requested that initialed copies of the Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Said communication is in English, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any non-English language publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

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S. Blaine Franklin

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1)


Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of December 10, 2004. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in said communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the attached publications be considered and made of record.

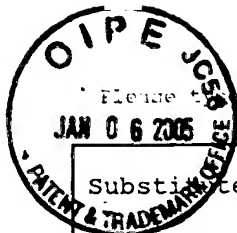
Respectfully submitted,


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Reg. No. 22,914

Encs.

Dated: January 6, 2005

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PTO SP 21A (1-1-1)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT			Application Number		10/803,231	
			Filing Date		March 17, 2004	
			First Named Inventor		Shigeaki YAMANAKA et al	
			Group Art Unit		3725	
			Examiner Name			
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number		04132/LH

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits*	Cite No ¹	Document Number	Kind Code ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
		2,593,730	A	CORNELL	04-22-1952	
		4,580,431	A	OKU et al	04-08-1986	
		5,419,217	A	UMEZAWA et al	05-30-1995	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits*	Cite No ¹	Offc ³	Document Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T ⁶
		DE	42 14 268	C1	PRAEWEMA WERKZEUGMASHINEN-FABR.	01-05-1994		
		FR	2 343 534	A	JEAN PERRIER	10-07-1977		
		GB	836,706	A	KABEL UND METALLWERKE NEUMEYER	06-09-1960		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WFO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbol as indicated on the document under WFO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

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Substitute for Form 1449A/ETO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	107500,201
				Filing Date	March 17, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Shigeaki YAMANAKA et al
				Group Art Unit	3725
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	04132/LH

OTHER DOCUMENTS - NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of article, title of item, date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
		PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Vol. 0120, No. 04 (M-657), 8 January 1988 (1988-01-08) and JP 62-168626 A (YAMAHA MOTOR CO. LTD.), 24 July 1987 (1987-07-24) - Abstract, Fig. 5. PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Vol. 1996, No. 12, 26 December 1996 (1996-12-26) and JP 08-197184 A (SEKIGUCHI SANGYO KK), 6 August 1996 (1996-08-06) - Abstract. PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Vol. 1997, No. 06, 30 June 1997 (1997-06-30) and JP 09-047838 A (MUSASHI SEIMITSU IND. CO. LTD.), 18 February 1997 (1997-02-18) - Abstract, Figures. PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Vol. 2002, No. 11, 6 November 2002 (2002-11-06) and JP 2002-195244 A (SOMIC ISHIKAWA INC.), 10 July 2002 (2002-07-10) - Abstract.	
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

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